

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

22 MAR 1993

THE SECRETARY - ROOM 222

IN REPLY REFER TO:

7330-7/17103

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senator
1800 Fifth Avenue North
321 Federal Building
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Dear Senator Shelby:

This is in reply to your letter of February 25, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituent, Harry Sheram, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Your constituent is specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take your constituent's concerns into account when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Your constituent's letter will be included in the record of the proceeding. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Shiben
Chief, Land Mobile & Microwave Division
Private Radio Bureau

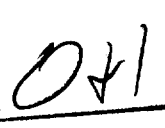
Enclosures
cc:

CNTL NO - 9301113

Chief, PR Bureau
Chief, LM&M Division
Docket Files, Room 222
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Congressional

DUR 93-17-93

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AND REPLY FOR DOCKET FILE, ROOM 222.

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM
03/09/93

LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9301113	03/09/93	02/25/93	03/29/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Senator	Richard Shelby	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
Harry Sheram	inq. comments on PR Docket 92-235

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
PRB/LM			

3-10-93

DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
03/09/93			

REMARKS: Please reply to the Birmingham, AL office

RICHARD SHELBY
ALABAMA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0103

February 25, 1993

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Ms. Linda Townsend Solheim
Director, Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
Room 808
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Solheim:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I received from Harry Sheram.

Any information you may have regarding this matter would be appreciated in order that I may be able to respond to my constituent's inquiry.

Sincerely,

Richard Shelby
Richard Shelby

RCS/jjj
Enclosure

Please respond to my Birmingham office.

February 17, 1993

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senator
1800 5th Avenue North
Birmingham, Al 35203

RE: NPRM - PR DOCKET 92-235

Dear Senator Shelby:

I am retired and derive many hours of enjoyment from constructing and operating radio controlled model airplanes. I am very active in a local club (there are 4 clubs in the Birmingham area) all of whose members enjoy the same hobby. My club has 108 members.

I am very concerned about the proposed rules change in PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents both personal injury and property damage, and the attendant liability for controlling model airplanes. My investment in this hobby amounts to several thousand dollars over the years. I have just overcome the cost of destroying older equipment and purchasing new equipment to comply with the 1991 regulations.

Radio control frequencies for model airplanes are in the 72-76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. At present our radio control frequencies in this band are separated from the land mobile frequencies, that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other, except on a rare occasion when illegal high power has been used.

This F.C.C. proposal wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower band widths and rearranging the band plan. This plan will move many land mobile frequencies closer to radio controlled frequencies, causing interference to radio controlled airplanes. Of the current 50 frequencies being used by operators of radio controlled airplanes, only 19 frequencies will be left available for model aircraft. The same chaos will occur in this band that occurred by the establishment of the Citizens Band on 27 MHz. I cannot enjoy the use of 27 MHz because of the illegal use of High Power transmitters which splatter over a wide area of the 27 MHz band. The same situation will occur on 72-76 MHz band.

Page Two

Re: NRPRM-PR Docket 92-235

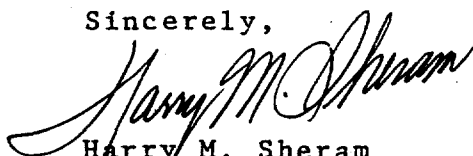
We go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and spectators and the protection of property. Just one of our many safety precautions is the careful coordination and use of the radio control frequencies. Reducing the number of current useable frequencies will cause the remaining frequencies to become highly congested and the margin of safety greatly reduced to an untenable point.

Some of our model airplanes are 1/3, 1/4, 1/5th the size of its full size counterpart, wing spans are up to 12 feet and the models may weight 40 - 50 lbs. Many of these models are very expensive to build, but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interferences causes the operator to lose control of the aircraft. These models are often flown at organized contests and events where hundreds of operators, participants and thousands of spectators are present. We need the full complement of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

To destroy this hobby would drastically reduce the contributions to the advancement and development of private and commercial aviation and outer space travel.

Please help me to continue the safe enjoyment of my past-time by defeating this F.C.C. PROJECT PR Docket 92-235.

Sincerely,



Harry M. Sheram
Rt. 2, Box 2525
Oneonta, Al 35121

Ph: (205) 274-9967

